

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application and for the Interview held on May 3, 2007.

Interview Summary

A representative for the Applicant held a telephone interview with the Examiner on May 3, 2007, during which the Response dated March 20, 2007, and the Advisory Action mailed April 18, 2007, were discussed. During the interview, Applicant requested the Examiner to consider a newly proposed amendment, where claims 1-5 are canceled and claim 6 is maintained as in the Response dated March 20, 2007 except that the limitation "wherein the two groups have equal numbers of light emitting elements" is removed. At the conclusion of the interview, it was agreed that if the claims were amended as discussed, they would be considered. The amendments submitted herewith are in accordance with that discussion. Therefore, entry and favorable consideration of these amendments is respectfully requested.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-19 were pending in this application. Claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form, absent the limitation mentioned above. Claims 20 and 21 have been added, corresponding to claims 4 and 5, but depend from claim 6. Claims 22 recites the limitation removed from claim 6. Claims 1-5, 11, and 14-19 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, claims 6-10, 12-13, and 20-22 are currently pending in this application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 5, and 10-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 2001-307506 (“Hisashi”). By way of this reply, claims 1-3, 5, and 11 have been canceled, thereby rendering this rejection moot. In addition, claim 10 depends from amended independent claim 6, which includes allowable subject matter as discussed in the Interview dated May 4, 2007. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103*Claim 4*

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hisashi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,986,324 (“Adlerstein”). By way of this reply, claim 4 has been canceled, thereby rendering this rejection moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 6-9 and 12-13

Claims 6-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hisashi. Further, claims 12-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hisashi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,194,743 (“Kondoh”). However, the Examiner has indicated claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. This has been done above, except that, as explained during the Interview, the “equal number” limitation has been moved to a dependent claim as it is not believed necessary for patentability. Claims 7-9, 12-13, and 20-22 depend from claim 6, and are also believed to be in condition of allowance. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591, Reference 08228/073001.

Dated: May 14, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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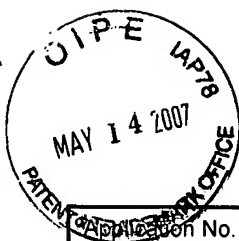
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Application No. (if known): 10/525,998

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